that the employees of different establishments are not getting their yearly P F. statement and account slips regularly;

(b) whether it is a fact that nonrefundable loan and P. F. final settlement are not being processed properly;

(c) whether Government have received any complaint in this regard;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government to see that the employees are not harassed by the P. F. offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The Government is aware of large pendency in the issue of annual statement of account-;

(b) During the year 1984-85, 5,02,278 porvident fund claims amounting to Rs, 268.27 crcres and 2,96,360 applica tions for withdrawals amounting to Rs. 82.40 crores, were settled. How-, ever, the pendency both ;n case of non-refundable claims cases and final tement of cases remains considerable .

(c) to (e) A joint letter signed by some Honourable M.P. stating *inter a\la* that the RPFC's office in Calcutta was not functioning property and that there were delays in settlement of claims, issue of annual statement of accounts, etc. was received recently. A new RPFC has since been posted In Calcutta and he has been instructed to rniake special efforts to gear up the administration and to take steps for expeditious settlement of pending claims, etc. This position is being regularly monitored and it is expected that there will be considerable improve ment as a result of the administrative changes «nJ 'ieamlining of proce dures.

Relief from payment of Excise Daty sought for by Industries

1074. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH:

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as reces sion is setting in the country, indus^ tries both in the large and small scale sectors, have started laying off of labour and have suspended the lifting of goods against orders -placed earlier and also have approached Government for relief from excise duty;

(b) if so, how Government propose to combat the situation;

(c) whether plea for cuts in excise duty is going to be granted; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJAMfTTa) A significant increase in industrial production and revenue realisation during 1985-86 over the corresponding months of 1984-85 clearly shows that there is evidence of recession in the economy. However, production in individual industries and units, as weh as demand and supply of different products, are influenced by a variety of factors operating from time to time. There has been no demand for excise duty relief in general on this account.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

हथकरघा क्षेत्र के लिये आरक्षित वस्तुएं

1075. **श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव** : क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) नई वस्त्र नीति में हथकरघा क्षेत्र के लिये आरक्षित वस्तुओं और पुरानी वस्त्र नीति में हथकरघा क्षेत्र के लिये आरक्षित बारह वस्तुओं के वास्तविक मूल्य तथा बाजार मूल्य में क्या अन्तर है ; और

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि नई वस्त्र नीति के प्रवर्तन के कारण हथकरघा क्षेत्र को कठिनाई पेश आ रही है, यदि हां, तो इस क्षेत्र के लिये केवल दस वस्तुओं के आरक्षण से इसको क्या लाभ पहुंचेगा ?

वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री खुर्शीद आलम खान) : (क) नए आरक्षण अधिनियम के अन्तर्गत हथकरघा क्षेत्र में पूरी तरह उत्पादन के लिए बाईस मदों को आरक्षित किया गया है । आरक्षित मदों के लिए कोई कीमतें निर्धारित नहीं की जाती हैं और इस लिए बाजार कीमत तथा वास्तविक कीमत के बीच अन्तर का प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

(ख) नई वस्त्र नीति लागू होने से हथकरघा क्षेत्र को पैदा होने वाली कठिनाई के सम्बन्ध में भारत सरकार को राज्यों से कोई विशेष रिपोर्टें प्राप्त नहीं हुई हैं । हथकरघा क्षेत्र में उत्पादन के लिए 22 मदों के आरक्षण से इन मदों के सम्बन्ध में अन्य क्षेत्रों से प्रतियोगिता समाप्त करके इन उत्पादों के विपणन में मदद मिलेगी, इस प्रकार उत्पादन में वृद्धि होगी और इससे हथकरघा बुनकरों के लिए बेहतर आय तथा रोजगार सुनिश्चित होगा ।

Tripartite Study Group of fishermen

1076. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has constituted a Tripartite Study Group on Fishermen to look into their working and living conditio]

i he names of Study Group;

(c)' what are the terms of reference thereof; and

the report is Jk be submitted by the Group?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are given in' the Statement. (See below).

(c) The terms of reference are as under:—^

(i) To identify the different types of fishing boats as well as different categories of fishermen, nature of operations, their working and living conditions, such as hours of work, accidents, fis'hing equipment used, wages|remunerations payable, existing facilities available to the fishermen under housing, drinking water, meditfal aid, scholarships to children etc. and the extent to which 'hey are availing themselves of these benefits;

(ii) to study existing legislative provisions which are applicable to the fishermen (both wage employed and self-employed) and the difficulties which may have arisen from time to time in the implementation of the statutory provisions; and

(iii) to consider and formulate the details of legislative and administrative measures including constitutihn of a welfare fund, by levy of cess on the, manufacturers[export houses 'us may be considered necessary for improvin| the working and living conditions of fishermen.

(d), A National Welfare Fund for tsher'men. has been constituted by the Ministry he Ministry of ricultups and the LState Governments to improve the working and living conditions of fishermen. In vicw of this, it was felt that no-. 5ose would be, served by continuing Study. Group. It ivas, .therefore, been decided thai.the Study Group should be wound up. The notification in this regard is being published.